

P R  
4627  
D3E3

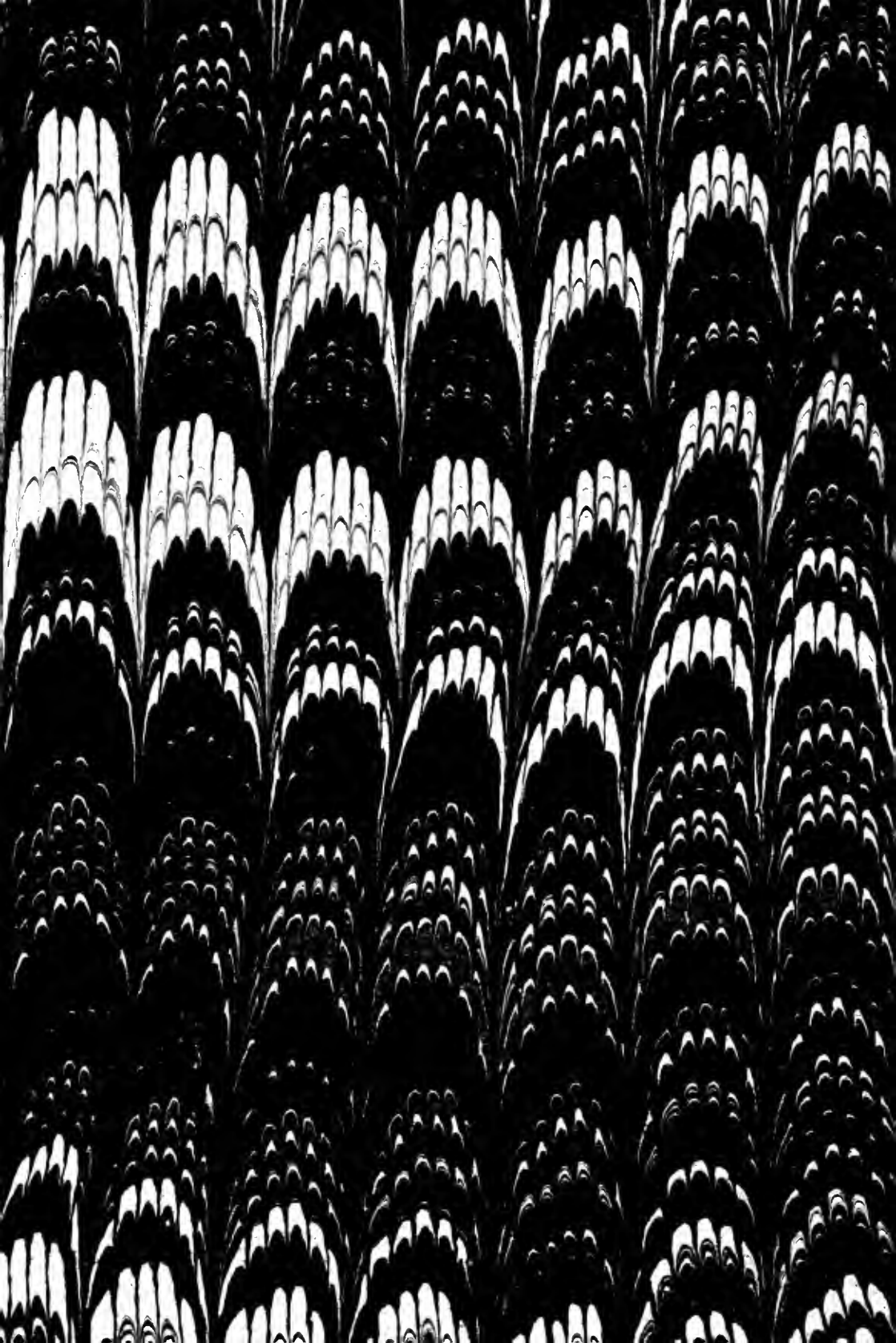
UC-NRLF

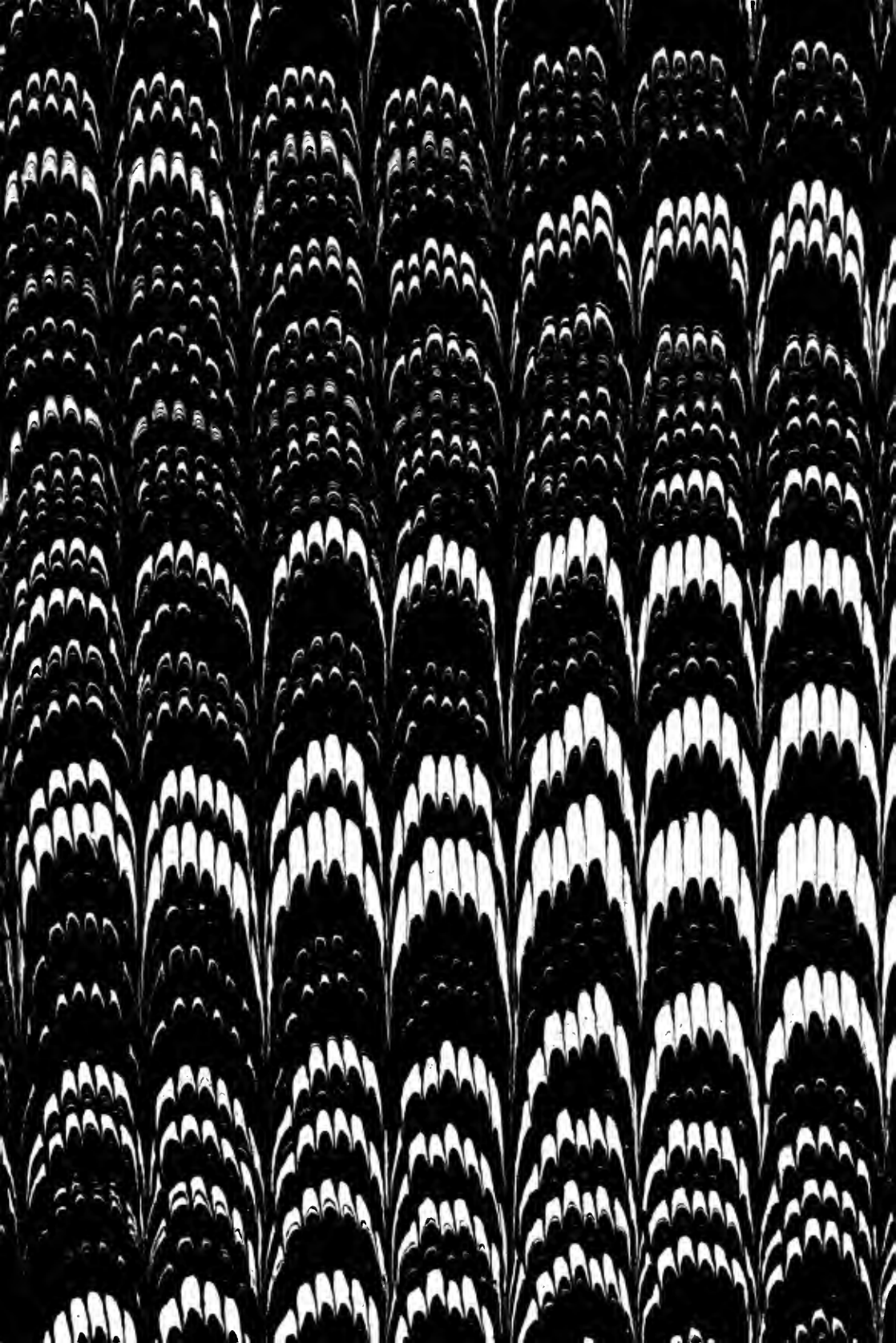


B 4 713 494

EDITH

ROMANCE OF 1066.





















Souvenir of January 18th, 1881,

Dedicated to my daughter

MRS. WYKEHAM MARTIN.



*Romance of the year 1066, suggested by  
thoughts of the great author's \* "Harold,"  
and two fair Kentish Memories.*

BY

RS. ITT RAFFEN

---

\* *Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.*

**LOAN STACK**

PR 4627  
D3E3

*Romance of the year 1066, suggested by  
thoughts of the great author's \* "Harold,"  
and two fair Kentish Memories.*

I.

H ! once again let me recall  
My childhood's blest Spring-tide ;  
When Harold by the ivied wall  
Sought Edith, his fair bride.

II.

Too oft stern Duty's clinging care  
Kept the betrothed apart ;  
For King and Country ever were  
Rooted in thy loyal heart.

---

\* Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.

III.

But when at eventide we met  
Beside Thor's altar stone,  
The glist'ning stars our vows reset  
In their own love-lit zone.

IV.

One shadow only seemed to veil  
Our joy, and grief awake,  
The king and priests within the pale  
Of kin our vows would break.

V.

And, linking with the cloister's cell  
Freedom from unblest ties,  
The Queen her godchild counsels well  
Love changeless *most* to prize.

VI.

Oh! Saint Queen, through the convent gate  
Rushes thy meed of peace—  
But Edith, Life's glad joys await,  
And joys the years increase.

VII.

Was ne'er a time when o'er Thy brow  
Thoughts bright as hers were twin'd,  
Ere, on thy country's altars, Thou  
In suffering all resigned?

VIII.

But hark! what anxious rumours soar  
Of Norman rule the while;  
And England's destiny once more  
From Edith cares beguile.

IX.

His mother too claims Harold's troth,  
From William's Court release  
Of Haco and her joy Woolnoth,  
Long hostages of peace.

X.

And Hilda too by charms hath long  
Sought clearer light to gain;  
But Edith sees dim shadows throng,  
And hears the sad refrain

XI.

Of Sanguelac ! and broken vows—,  
Of saintly relics' might ;  
The frauds that William too well sows,  
On his doom'd head alight.

XII.

Her words are vain, Harold the brave,  
Leal-hearted, aye and true,  
Dares first the dangers of the wave  
To the famed shores of Rou.

XIII.

At last ambition took the reins,  
With Hilda's goal the lure ;  
Lost in her weird and tangled skeins  
Dimm'd Edith's lessons pure.

XIV.

How wisely Gurth, Earl Harold chides,  
Dread danger to forego—  
Uncertainty in which abides  
All England's weal or woe.



XV.

Oh ! fatal voyage, treacherous land !  
Thence shalt thou ne'er depart  
Without that brand, that deepest brand  
When Conscience pierc'd thy heart.

XVI.

For England's sake, too, guile met guile,  
Thy freedom link'd her own ;  
And faithless promises awhile  
Beckon like Hope long flown.

XVII.

Thus to win freedom ne'er more free  
Of Hope's glad smile bereft,  
His Honor stain'd—ah ! misery !  
What hath proud Harold left ?

XVIII.

The Waltham Monastery bells  
Are chiming Vespers' hour ;  
Harold's desire to anguish swells  
In Ailred's ears to pour

XIX.

The tale of all that Norman ruth  
Had will'd against his life ;  
Lip-perjur'd England's crown forsooth  
Dared he thus merge all strife ?

XX.

Was there no pardon, no release  
From rash vows wrung by pain ?  
A sin to save his country's peace ?  
Blest lot ! to bear her bane !

XXI.

Pardon ? ah ! yes, but penitence  
In fitting deeds must show,  
For England and her laws' defence  
Canst dearest hopes forego ?

XXII.

Now near her shores Hadrada dread,  
The poet warrior bold,  
False Tostig has by avarice led,  
And England's crown nigh sold.

XXIII.

Him Harold vanquished, on the coast,  
New perils need his aid—  
Mercia, Northumbria a host  
By civil war invade.

XXIV.

Now thanes and ceorls, and priest and friend  
By council wise decide  
O'er England—Love must Duty lend,  
“Aldyth shall be thy bride.”

XXV.

But Harold pleads for his life's life,  
The twin soul wed to his—  
With sorrow every lot is rife,  
But not such woe as this.

XXVI.

Edith, enchain'd by memory's bliss,  
Spares Harold this dread choice ;  
Re-hallows by her parting kiss  
The bonds of England's voice.

XXVII.

Grieve not Beloved, tho' doomed to part,  
How could I shed a tear ?  
Whilst thou and England share my heart  
All is sweet for cause so dear !

XXVIII.

Thy Edith is not weaker now  
Than in those happy days  
When thou pure seeds of Faith did'st sow,  
And Love shed virtue's rays.

XXIX.

Then in such strength I breathe farewell,  
Remembering pride of yore,  
Nor could I love thee now so well  
Lov'dst thou not England more.

XXX.

No woman tempts thee from my side,  
Nor rival deem'st thou fair—  
Thy Country aye shall be thy bride,  
And woo thee from Despair.

XXXI.

England not Aldyth sacred trust  
With Edith shalt entwine  
Self-sacrifice—consoling must  
The light of Freedom shine.

XXXII.

Illum'ning e'en in after years  
With triumph our sad path ;  
Just men deem Edith, amid tears,  
Worthy to share thy hearth.

XXXIII.

Loving thee as her guardian star,  
Could such love be a sin ?  
Resigning for thy sorrow's war  
The church's ban would win.

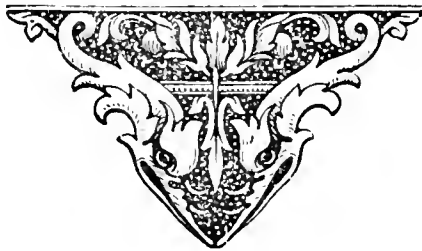
XXXIV.

Sad Queen ! thy warnings in mine ear  
Now unforbidden rise,  
The bough is dead, the leaflets sere,  
'Tis sunset, now Hope dies.

I dread the cloister's cell no more,  
Beloved ! thence for thee,  
Morning and evening prayer shall soar,  
Thy shield Faith's blessing be.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ages are past, still Harold's Fame  
Brave British hearts e'er guard,  
Last of the Saxons still thy name  
Breathes Peace Thy Life's reward.















# HOME USE CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT MAIN LIBRARY

This book is due on the last date stamped below.  
1-month loans may be renewed by calling 642-3405.  
6-month loans may be recharged by bringing books  
to Circulation Desk.

Renewals and recharges may be made 4 days prior  
to due date.

ALL BOOKS ARE SUBJECT TO RECALL 7 DAYS  
AFTER DATE CHECKED OUT.

REC'D BY 1 26 11/1/68

REC'D CIRC DEPT

100 17499

LD21-A30m-7,'73  
(R2275S10)476-A-32

General Library  
University of California  
Berkeley



